

T-632
Dawson Caulk House
St. Michaels
private

c. 1880

The research compiled on this Water Street lot indicates that Dawson Caulk, Jr. initiated the construction of this two-story, side hall/parlor frame dwelling around 1880 on his father's large harbor front lot. Dawson Caulk, Sr. purchased "Lot 54" from the estate of Samuel Harrison in 1845 and occupied the house now known as Magnolia Hall during the mid to late nineteenth century. It was evidently agreed to allow Dawson, Jr. to build a two-story frame house on the north edge of the lot, property which he formally purchased after his father's death. The clause in the title includes the statement, "...That lot of ground with improvements." The architectural features of the house agreed with the late nineteenth-century estimated date. Dawson Caulk continued to hold title to the property until his death, and the house was sold by his heirs in 1924.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-632

Magi No. 2106322604

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic DAWSON CAULK HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 409 Water Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. William Foster

street & number 409 Water Street telephone no.:

city, town St. Michaels state and zip code MD 21663

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 565

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 578

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-632

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Dawson Caulk house, located at 409 Water Street, stands in the eastern residential district of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The narrow lot stretches from Water Street to the edge of the St. Michaels harbor. Facing west the main gable roof of the two-story house is oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1880, the two-story, side hall, parlor frame dwelling is supported by a minimal brick foundation, and it is sheathed with a uniform layer of aluminum siding that imitates German siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a modern single-story frame wing.

The west (main) facade is an asymmetrical three-bay elevation with a side entrance and flanking four-over-four sash windows. Although the front door is a replacement it is framed by a single-pane transom and three-light sidelights. The four-over-four sash windows are flanked by artificial louvered shutters. Sheltering the first floor is a Tuscan columned hip roof porch that survives with a seamed tin roof. The second floor is lighted by three four-over-four sash windows that are framed by artificial shutters as well. Covering the boxed cornice is a metal soffit.

The south gable end is marked on the first floor by a modern bay window and an adjacent four-over-four sash window. The second floor and attic are lighted by a combination of four-over-four and six-over-six sash windows that flank the interior end brick stove stack. The eaves are extended slightly with short returns at the base.

The north gable end is marked by an asymmetrical two-bay elevation with six-over-six sash windows. The eave is treated in the same way.

Covering a large part of the east side is a single-story frame wing that was added during the 1970s.

The first floor interior has been remodeled with the removal of the hall partition to consolidate the hall and parlor into one large room. A heavily turned newel post and turned balusters support a molded handrail. A modern door opens into the space under the stair where a bathroom has been added. Fixed against the chimney breast is a late Victorian mantel with applied moldings. The room is also trimmed with period baseboard. The second floor was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-632

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Dawson Caulk house dates from the late nineteenth century and follows a common house plan for the time. The two-story, side hall/parlor house type was erected countless times as a basic structure that was enlarged by side or rear additions. Although this example on Water Street has been remodeled with artificial exterior siding and the removal of the interior hall partition, the structure retains its basic integrity and contributes to the period architectural character of Water Street.

The chain-of-title for this lot indicates that the extant two-story frame house was probably erected around 1880 by Dawson Caulk, Jr. at the edge of a large harbor front property owned by his father, Dawson Caulk, Sr. The large lot is indicated on the 1877 St. Michaels town map with only one dwelling, the main house, on the site. After the death of Dawson Caulk, Sr. his heirs transferred formal ownership of a 120' by 30', "...lot of ground with improvments."(112/142) Dawson Caulk, Jr. evidently occupied the property until his death, and his heirs sold the dwelling in 1924 to Ella C. Mansfield.(199/464)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-632

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 9/8/88

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 301-651-1094

city or town Westover state MD 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

YEAR: 1982 VOL: 565 PAGE: 578

FROM: Jane James, P R of estate of Jean St. L. McCormack PRICE: \$141,000

TO: William J. Foster, III.

NOTES Begins at the SW corner of the late William G. Caulk and Mary E. Caulk; run East 120 feet more or less to the water of St. Michaels Harbor; South with the shoreline 30 feet to the former George R. Caulk; West 120 feet to Water Street; North 30 feet to the beginning.

Conveyed to Denis McCormack and Jean St. L. McCormack by J. Norman Stewart 1974, 487/634.

YEAR: 1974 VOL: 487 PAGE: 634

FROM: J. Norton Stewart PRICE:

TO: Denis McCormack and Jean St. Leger McCormack

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to J. Norton Stewart by Cynthia B Ludlow 1972, 466/665.

YEAR: 1972 VOL: 466 PAGE: 665

FROM: Cynthia B. Ludlow PRICE:

TO: J. Norman Stewart

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to William G. Ludlow and Cynthia B. Ludlow by George J. Pillorge and Phyllis D. Pillorge 1971, 453/362.

YEAR: 1971 VOL: 453 PAGE: 362

FROM: George J. Pillorge and Phyllis D. Pillorge PRICE:

TO: William G. Ludlow and Cynthia B. Ludlow

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to George J. Pillorge and Phyllis D. Pillorge by Laura M. Lewis 1970, 448/121.

YEAR: 1970 VOL: 448 PAGE: 121

FROM: Laura M. Lewis PRICE:

TO: George J. Pillorge and Phyllis D. Pillorge

NOTES Same description.

Conveyed to Ella C. Mansfield and Laura M. Lewis by William Reddie 1945, 261/516. Ella Mansfield died - Laura Lewis was sole owner.

YEAR: 1945 VOL: 261 PAGE: 516
FROM: William Reddie PRICE:
TO: Ella C. Mansfield and Laura M. Lewis
NOTES Same description.
Conveyed to William Reddie by Ella C. Mansfield. Title Clearance.
1945, 261/515 Ella C. Mansfield and Joseph R. Mansfield to William Reddie.
Conveyed to Ella C. Mansfield by James D. Caulk and others 1924, 199/464

YEAR: 1924 VOL: 199 PAGE: 464
FROM: James D. Caulk and others (heirs of Dawson Caulk) PRICE:
TO: Ella C. Mansfield
NOTES Same description.
Conveyed to Dawson Caulk, Jr. by William G. Caulk 1890, 112/142.

YEAR: 1890 VOL: 112 PAGE: 142
FROM: Heirs of Dawson Caulk, Sr. PRICE: \$160
TO: Dawson Caulk, Jr.
NOTES The heirs were: William G. Caulk and Mary E. Caulk, John H. Caulk, William B. Kirby, Edward N. Kirby, and John R. Kirby.
"That lot of ground with improvements". Begins at the boundary of a lot of William G. Caulk; run East 120 feet to the water; South 30 feet; West 120 feet; 30 feet to the beginning.
Part of a lot conveyed to Dawson Caulk, Sr. by John Bozman Kerr, executor of the estate of Samuel Harrison 1845, 59/178.

YEAR: 1845 VOL: 59 PAGE: 178
FROM: John Bozman Kerr, trustee Estate Samuel Harrison PRICE:
TO: Dawson Caulk
NOTES Lot number 54. Part of Samuel Harrison's estate. Sold on 28 November 1838. The lot is 60 feet on Water Street and 120 feet deep to the water.

YEAR: 1816 VOL: 38 PAGE: 319
FROM: William Skinner PRICE:
TO: William Harrison
NOTES Lots 53 and 54.
Deed from William Harrison to Samuel Harrison was not found.

YEAR: 1812 VOL: 38 PAGE: 319

FROM: John Edmondson, trustee estate Thomas Groves PRICE:

TO: William Skinner

NOTES Thomas Groves was murdered in Queen Anne County and left no will.
Lots 53 and 54.

YEAR: 1782 VOL: 21 PAGE: 253

FROM: James Braddock PRICE: p60sp

TO: Thomas Groves, Mariner

NOTES Lots 47, 53, 54. Groves eventually bought six town lots from Braddock and James Wignal. In some deeds he styles himself "Innholder".
The land is part of "The Beach" patented 1665 to John Hollingsworth.



T-632
DAWSON CAULK HOUSE
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle
1942



T-632

DAWSON CAULK HOUSE

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

West elevation

4/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-632

DAWSON CAULK HOUSE

ST. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

Southwest elevation

4/88, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust